

PATENT
IBM Docket No. RAL9-99-0157

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed July 1, 2003.

The Examiner objects to the Abstract. In response, a new Abstract is provided herewith.

The specification is objected to because on page 1 the serial number for a related application is missing. In response, the serial number is provided.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hedlund et al (U.S. patent 5,136,584). To support the rejection the examiner compares applicant's claims with the reference and concludes the claims are anticipated.

In response, applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner and argues the claims are not anticipated because the reference does not show claimed elements interconnected and/or function as set forth in the claims.

Before identifying structures in applicant's claim not present in the cited reference, applicant summarizes the law as applied to a rejection under 35 USC 102(b). Simply put, a rejection under 35 USC 102(b) requires every element, interconnection and function set forth in the claims must be found verbatim in a single reference. Applying this test to the present invention it is applicant's contention that the reference does not show a first storage unit sized as set forth in claims 1, 8 and 15, a storage control block unit and first and second busses interconnecting each unit to a multiplexor. In fact, the reference (see

PATENT
IBM Docket No. RAL9-99-0157

Col. 2, lines 54-56) states for purpose of speed no internal data storage is used in the interface. This language clearly teaches away from applicant's claimed invention which requires the storage as set forth in the amended claims. As a consequence not only are the claims not anticipated but they are also unobvious.

The dependent claims are also patentable over the art of record in that they recite limitations not present in the reference.

With respect to claims 15 and 16 the prior art cited reference does not show, among other things, - a frame process components . . . creating queues of packets going to same destination . . .

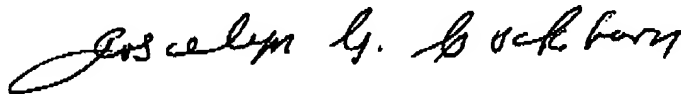
As a consequence claims 15 and 16 are not anticipated by the reference.

Newly added claim 17 is patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

PATENT
IBM Docket No. RAL9-99-0157

It is believed the present amendment answers all the issues raised by the Examiner. Reconsideration is hereby requested, and an early allowance of all the claims is solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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